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**REMARKS  
BY  
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA  
SAARC REGIONAL JUDICIAL CONFERENCE  
ON  
MONEY LAUNDERING AND TERRORIST FINANCING  
RUPOSHI BANGLA HOTEL, DHAKA  
AUGUST 26, 2013**

The Honorable Shafique Ahmed, Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

The Honorable Robert J. Torres, Justice, Supreme Court of Guam

The Honorable Frank Montalvo, U.S. District Court Judge, Western District, Texas

... and you, most especially, you ... distinguished judges from Bangladesh and from our good SAARC neighbors Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan ... and our most learned presenters ... all who seek to fight terrorism ...

Asalaam 'malaikum and good morning

Money ...

Terrorism ...

Money and terrorism ... can be two sides of the same coin ...

Money ... the facilitator of terrorism...

Money ... the enabler of terrorism ...

Money ... the oxygen of terrorism ...

To defeat terrorism, we must cut off the oxygen supply ... we must cut off the flow of money ...

... and that is where you come in.

You and your court room are ... sometimes literally ... the front lines of the struggle to defeat terrorism and violent extremism.

You brave judges from across South Asia ... your critical task is to suffocate terrorism ... to deprive terrorism of the money it needs to attack our people, our societies, our countries ... nobody said this is easy; it is not ... nobody said this is without risk; it is not ... but attacking and stopping the flow of money to terrorists, attacking and stopping money laundering are essential to ending terrorism, to enabling the people of our respective countries to live in peace, in harmony ... so they can build better lives for themselves and for their children ...

You are not the only players on the field in this battle against money laundering.

Parliaments must enact robust laws targeting financial crimes and money laundering, bringing these laws to international standards. Here in Bangladesh, America and Bangladesh have partnered to craft powerful laws to provide the tools needed to put money launderers behind bars. The parliament has enacted those laws, which are now being enforced.

Parliaments must provide law enforcement agencies and the judiciary the resources needed to defeat money laundering.

The police and other law enforcement agencies, the intelligence agencies, the military all must play their parts in apprehending the money launderers and in gathering the evidence you need to convict these culprits. As the money launderers and terrorists become more sophisticated, so must law enforcement agencies develop new skills and utilize new technologies in the battle.

Countries of the region and beyond must better cooperate with each other, must better share information, must better appreciate that while borders and questions of sovereignty have historically constrained nations' ability to work together, criminals and terrorists are not limited by such constraints ... we cannot become victims of our own narrow, nationalistic thinking ... we, peace loving nations of the region and beyond, must commit ourselves to deeper cooperation in fighting money laundering and terrorism.

Prosecutors, too, play a critical role. They must be professionals of integrity, competency as they present their cases before you in court.

And that brings us full circle back to you, the judges ... you, the linchpins in bringing money launderers and terrorists to justice. You may have the toughest role to play. On one hand, you must ensure fairness, and you must ensure that law enforcement agencies do not overreach and violate the rights of ordinary citizens. You must ensure that governments use anti-terrorism and money laundering laws responsibly and not as political tools.

On the other hand, you, the judges ... you must not retreat into obstructionism ... you should allow investigators and prosecutors to use the tools permitted them under law to combat these crimes. You should encourage international cooperation in this battle and admit into court evidence from international partners, to the fullest extent of the law. You should consider how the sentences you impose work to protect citizens and deter would-be criminals from engaging in these crimes. Freezing and forfeiting assets can be most effective, for example.

Additionally, you confront on a daily basis the challenge of balancing the need to have transparent and open court proceedings with the need of protecting vital national security interests. This, too, is tough.

Do not despair ... you are not alone in facing these daunting challenges ... surrounding you are fellow judges who confront the same challenges. Over the course of the next three days, you judges will exchange and share best practices with each other; you will explore with experts from America, Interpol and elsewhere how to improve adjudication of money laundering and terrorist financing cases; and you will consider how to enhance cross-border cooperation in combatting these increasingly complex international crimes.

You are going to work hard over these three days, but if the past is any guide, you will depart from this conference with a deepened understanding and appreciation of how best to handle financial crimes involving money laundering and terrorist financing. I think you will find this conference most valuable.

I am pleased that America is able to sponsor this conference to enable you the judges of South Asia to hone and sharpen your legal weapons as you do battle with those who seek to launder money to finance terrorism.

I heartily thank the Government of Bangladesh and, most especially, the Honorable Law Minister for their tremendous support and cooperation in making this event possible.

As I close, I wish each of you the very best as you participate in this conference; I hope you find the experience most enriching; I trust that when you return to your respective countries you will be better prepared than ever to fulfill your critical role in defeating money laundering and terrorism.

Thank you.

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*\*As prepared for delivery.*